

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01

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P R 011545Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL TANGIER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3128

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL SEVILLE

AMCONSUL BARCELONA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANGIER 0305

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS:ELAB, MO

SUBJECT: HOTEL STRIKE IN TANGIER

REF.: TANGIER 303

1. HOTEL STRIKE IN TANGIER WITH 1500 HOTEL WORKERS PARTICIPATING HAS NOW ENTERED ITS FIFTH DAY. TWO OF TANGIER'S LARGEST HOTELS, THE RIF AND EL MINZA, HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS AND THE SOLAZUR, ANOTHER OF THE MASSIVE HOTELS ALONG TANGIER'S SHORE, MAY FOLLOW SUITE IF STRIKE DOES NOT END WITHIN NEXT 24 HOURS. COMING AT THE HEIGHT OF THE TOURIST SEASON, THE STRIKE HAS DEALT A HEAVY BLOW TO TANGIER' MOST IMPORTANT BUSINESS.

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2. STRIKE BROKE OUT MORNING OF JULY 28TH FOLLOWING WEEK OF ABORTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN HOTEL OWNERS AND HOTEL WORKERS SECTOR OF THE UNION MAROCAIN DES TRAVAILLEURS. UNION DEMANDED 50 PERCENT INCREASE AND HOTELS,WE UNDERSTAND, WERE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE ANY REASONABLE OFFER. FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF STRIKE HOTEL OWNERS INSISTED THEY WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WHILE STRIKE IN PROGRESS, AND UNION LEADERS, ACCORDING TO A WELL PLACED MANAGEMENT SOURCE, AGREED LATE JULY 29 TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER BEING ASSURED BY HOTEL MANAGERS THEY WILLING MAKE REASONABLE WAGE SETTLEMENT.

3. WHEN THIS DECISION REPORTED BACK TO STRIKERS,HOWEVER, UNION MILITANTS APPARENTLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT IT AND LED ATTACK ON UNION LEADERS. OUR MANAGEMENT SOURCE INFORMS US SECRETARY GENERAL OF HOTEL WORKERS SECTOR RECEIVED KNIFE WOUNDS IN ENSUING MELEE AND HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED. STALEMATE FOLLOWED DURING THIRD AND FOURTH DAYS OF STRIKE WITH MILITANT UNIONISTS REFUSING RETURN TO WORK BEFORE WAGE SETTLEMENT REACHED AND HOTEL OWNERS STILL INSISTING THEY WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE WHILE STRIKE CONTINUED.

4. GOVERNOR HAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO LOAN CITY EMPLOYEES TO HOTEL MANAGERS IN EFFORT HELP THEM STAY OPEN. OFFER TURNED DOWN SINCE IT IMPRACTICAL OPERATE HOTELS WITHOUT SKILLED WORKERS. MANAGEMENT PROBABLY ALSO CONCERNED THAT BRINGING WORKERS IN FROM OUTSIDE MIGHT LEAD TO VIOLENCE. ACCORDING LATEST REPORTS GOVERNOR NOW PUTTING PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS AND REACH SPEEDY SETTLEMENT.

5. STRIKE HAS AFFECTED MOST THOUGH NOT ALL OF THE MAJOR HOTELS. INTERCONTINENTAL,CHELLAH AND MALABATA HOTELS, WHICH EMPLOY NO UNION MEMBERS, ARE STILL OPERATING AS ARE MANY OF THE SMALLER ESTABLISHMENTS. MOST,HOWEVER, ARE FULLY BOOKED AND THEREFORE UNABLE OFFER MUCH ASSISTANCE TO THOSE BOOKED INTO HOTELS CLOSED OR CRIPPLED BY THE STRIKE (EL MINZAH,RIF , SOLAZUR,AFRICA AND LES ALMOHADES). TOUR GROUPS ARE BEING TURNED BACK OR DIVERTED AND TOURISTS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID TANGIER UNLESS THEY ARE CERTAIN OF THEIR ACCOMMODATION.

EASTMAN

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